

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) A method for managing an inter-network handover, comprising steps of:

receiving a prompt to select a second communication network for the inter-network handover for a mobile wireless communication device operating within a first communication network, wherein the first and second communication networks can be different types of communication networks;

wherein the prompt comprises at least one element selected from a group consisting of: a capacity shortage in one of the communication networks, physical movement of the mobile wireless communication device, a connect request initiated by the mobile wireless communication device, and a time interval;

wherein the different types of communication networks comprise at least two of: a global communication system based on satellites, a universal mobile telecommunications system, a cellular global system for mobile communications, and a wireless local area network;

wherein the communication networks differ from each other with respect to at least one of: bandwidth, carrier frequencies, levels of user access, encoding techniques, modulation techniques, ownership, and sizes of individual network;

receiving an identification of the wireless communication device, wherein said identification comprises a location of the mobile wireless communication device and access capability to the types of communication networks;

fetching a customer profile from a customer profile memory, wherein said customer profile comprises a customer's preferences regarding cost and bandwidth, ~~and access capability to the types of communication networks;~~

identifying availability of the different communication networks for the mobile wireless communication device, wherein availability is determined by referencing a look-up table indicating the communication networks covering the device's location;

evaluating at least one of: current capability and load from among the identified available communication networks of each available communication network, communication costs for using the network, bandwidth, performance optimization, and the customer profile to determine the second communication network for handover;

selecting the second communication network from among the different available communication networks, based on the evaluation; and

notifying the mobile wireless communication device of the second communication network recommended for handover, which recommendation automatically initiates the handover to the recommended second communication network.

31. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for causing functions of an electronic communication, the computer readable program code for causing a computer to effect steps of:

receiving a prompt to select a second communication network for the inter-network handover for a mobile wireless communication device operating within a first communication network, wherein the first and second communication networks can be different types of communication networks;

wherein the prompt comprises at least one element selected from a group consisting of: a capacity shortage in one of the communication networks, physical movement of the mobile wireless communication device, a connect request initiated by the mobile wireless communication device, and a time interval;

wherein the different types of communication networks comprise at least two of: a global communication system based on satellites, a universal mobile telecommunications system, a cellular global system for mobile communications, and a wireless local area network;

wherein the communication networks differ from each other with respect to at least one of: bandwidth, carrier frequencies, levels of user access, encoding techniques, modulation techniques, ownership, and sizes of individual network;

receiving an identification of the wireless communication device, wherein said identification comprises a location of the mobile wireless communication device and access capability to the types of communication networks;

fetching a customer profile from a customer profile memory, wherein said customer profile comprises a customer's preferences regarding cost and bandwidth, ~~and access capability to the types of communication networks~~;

identifying availability of the different communication networks for the mobile wireless communication device, wherein availability is determined by referencing a look-up table indicating the communication networks covering the device's location;

evaluating at least one of: current capability and load from among the identified available communication networks of each available communication network, communication costs for using the network, bandwidth, performance optimization, and the customer profile to determine the second communication network for handover;

selecting the second communication network from among the different available communication networks, based on the evaluation; and

notifying the mobile wireless communication device of the second communication network recommended for handover, which recommendation automatically initiates the handover to the recommended second communication network.

32. (Currently amended) An electronic communication device comprising:

access units for different wireless networks; and

a control unit for having a corresponding access unit establish a communication channel on a particular one of the networks in response to a notification from a network control unit recommending the particular one of the networks, which recommendation is binding for the communication device to connect to said recommended network;

wherein the control unit establishes the communication channel by performing steps of:

receiving a prompt to select a second communication network for the inter-network handover for a mobile wireless communication device operating within a first communication network, wherein the first and second communication networks can be different types of communication networks;

wherein the prompt comprises at least one element selected from a group consisting of: a capacity shortage in one of the communication networks, physical movement of the mobile wireless communication device, a connect request initiated by the mobile wireless communication device, and a time interval;

wherein the different types of communication networks comprise at least two of: a global communication system based on satellites, a universal mobile telecommunications system, a cellular global system for mobile communications, and a wireless local area network;

wherein the communication networks differ from each other with respect to at least one of: bandwidth, carrier frequencies, levels of user access, encoding techniques, modulation techniques, ownership, and sizes of individual network;

receiving an identification of the wireless communication device, wherein said identification comprises a location of the mobile wireless communication device and access capability to the types of communication networks;

fetching a customer profile from a customer profile memory, wherein said customer profile comprises a customer's preferences regarding cost and bandwidth, ~~and access capability to the types of communication networks~~;

identifying availability of the different communication networks for the mobile wireless communication device, wherein availability is determined by referencing a look-up table indicating the communication networks covering the device's location;

evaluating at least one of: current capability and load from among the identified available communication networks of each available communication network, communication costs for using the network, bandwidth, performance optimization, and the customer profile to determine the second communication network for handover;

selecting the second communication network from among the different available communication networks, based on the evaluation; and

notifying the mobile wireless communication device of the second communication network recommended for handover, which recommendation automatically initiates the handover to the recommended second communication network.